

BRIEFINGS FROM LEE MORRIS



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER

MARCH 2016

NEW COUNTY LEADERSHIP

The County Manager finalized his executive team; the following persons will provide leadership and assist the County in implementing its strategic plan:

Kathleen Toomey, Director of Health Services – effective April 12, 2016. Dr. Toomey served as the Director of the Division of Public Health with the Georgia Department of Human Resources and previously held several positions in public health, both national and international.

Gabriel Morley, Director of the Fulton County Library System – effective April 20, 2016. Dr. Morley is currently the Director of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library System in Lake Charles, LA. He is the author of Building Workforce Literacy in Libraries: Connecting Communities with Opportunities, which will be published this Fall.

Ellis Kirby, Director of Real Estate & Asset Management – effective April 20, 2016. Mr. Kirby currently serves as the Regional Vice President for Sodexo Campus Division. He has also served in key leadership positions with Georgia Tech and Georgia Power.

David E. Clark, Director of Public Works – effective May 18, 2016. Mr. Clark currently serves as Director of Public Works and Transportation for Athens-Clarke County, where he directed a variety of water and transportation initiatives, including a \$40 million sales tax funded nine-year initiative designated for public infrastructure in Athens-Clarke County.

Lionell Thomas, Director of Art & Culture – effective May 18, 2016. Mr. Thomas joins us from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

TSPLOST AND FULTON MAYORS

The BOC continues to meet with the mayors of Fulton County to address transportation concerns. The county has convened four meetings this quarter (January 13, February 10, February 16 and March 31) to come to a consensus for possible referendum questions to be placed on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

SB 369, which passed out of the Georgia General Assembly and currently awaits Governor Deal's signature, provides for the creation of two special districts for the purposes of levying a sales tax increase (TSPLOST) to support transportation projects.

- The City of Atlanta may levy up to a .5 cent TSPLOST
- The rest of Fulton County may levy up to a .75 cent TSPLOST

Both special districts must present a list of transportation projects in order to be included on the November 2016 general election ballot. If approved by voters and the maximum rate is leveraged, Atlanta could generate \$280-\$320 million, while the rest of Fulton County could generate \$500-\$600 million from April 2017 to March 2022.

A second ballot question may allow MARTA to request an additional .5 cent sales tax to fund expansion projects in the city of Atlanta. The goal of SB 369 is to provide transportation improvements and congestion reduction.



REGISTER TO VOTE

The voter registration deadline is **Tuesday, April 26, 2016** for the May General Primary and Special Election. Online registration is available at fultonelections.com.

Residents can also register to vote at the following locations:

- At their city hall
- At a Georgia Department of Driver Services office
- At any Atlanta Fulton County Library Branch
- By mail
- At one of the three county offices:

Government Center, 130 Peachtree Street, Suite 2186, Atlanta 30303
North Service Center, 7741 Roswell Road, Atlanta 30350
South Service Center, 5600 Stonewell Tell Road, College Park 30349

ALL PEOPLE HAVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

In 2015, the Board of Commissioners (BOC) developed a four year strategic plan and performance management system to provide accountability and effectiveness of Fulton County government. The plan is developed around six priority areas:

- **All People are Safe**
- **All People are Healthy**
- **All People are Self Sufficient**
- **All People have Economic Opportunities**
- **All People's Lives are Culturally and Recreationally Enriched**
- **All People Trust that Government is Efficient, Effective and Fiscally Sound**

Each month at a BOC meeting, County Manager Dick Anderson, along with Chief Strategic Officer Anna Roach, will report on progress and recommend further action on one strategic priority. They will also provide quarterly performance reports on all priority areas.

Each performance management report will provide:

- A brief summary of key 2016 achievements in the priority area
- A list of BOC adopted strategies for the priority area
- A table of strategic objectives and measures for the priority area
- A dashboard which provides an overall view of performance in the priority area
- Individual dashboards on county-level performance for each objective in the priority area
- A financial snapshot which summarizes the last two years' spend in the priority area
- A summary of items approved by the BOC, as well as items anticipated to be presented to the BOC in the priority area
- Tips on how to read elements of the dashboards presented

At its February 17 meeting, the BOC approved the 2016-2019 area strategies for **All People have Economic Opportunities**:

- Increase impact of economic development efforts
- Ensure the workforce has skills needed to meet business demand
- Ensure the County's hiring practices and investments are linked to identified needs
- Expand the County's economic development impact by pursuing opportunities to link regional efforts, target areas with the greatest need, and increase the County's return on investment (ROI)

In keeping with this particular strategy, the BOC voted 6-0 to consolidate all of the county's economic development functions into one agency, **Select Fulton**. The new agency brings together the resources of the Fulton County Office of Economic Development and the Development Authority of Fulton County (DAFC) and is charged with organizing a county-wide approach to pursue business opportunities in Fulton County. **Select Fulton** will seek to increase the impact of economic development efforts and expand the County's economic development impact by pursuing opportunities linked to regional efforts.

Fulton County residents can access the County's performance information, budget, strategic plan and initiatives on the County's website at www.fultoncountyga.gov/strategyandperformance.

FULTON-GRADY TASK FORCE



The Fulton County and Grady Task Force continues to meet in 2016 to explore opportunities for the County and Grady to collaborate in providing health services to the residents of Fulton County. The Task Force met on February 4 to discuss the integration of medical records, the development of community maps, behavioral health care services, and HIV services. It was recommended that the use of the Network of Care tool be used to identify health disparities in various zip codes. Regarding the increase in HIV diagnoses, it was also recommended that the committee work to involve faith and community organizations, college campuses, and Black women's organizations in HIV prevention efforts. It was also suggested that a campaign similar to "Know Your Status" be established. The committee will convene in the 2nd quarter of 2016 to report on its progress.

EVENTS



Commissioner Morris attends the Buckhead Coalition Annual Luncheon with Atlanta Bar Association President Paulette Brown, Atlanta City Councilmembers Howard Shook and Kwanza Hall, and Japanese Consul General Takaschi Shinozuka. *January 27, 2016*



The Fulton County GOP invited Commissioner Morris to speak at their event at The Pig and the Pint in College Park. *February 11, 2016*



Commissioner Morris attends the PEDS Annual Meeting with Councilmember Mary Norwood and Sally Flocks of PEDS. *February 29, 2016*



Commissioner Morris joins the rest of the BOC in presenting a proclamation recognizing "Boys and Girls Club Week." *March 16, 2016*



Commissioner Morris meets with neighbors at the North Buckhead Civic Association Annual Meeting. *March 29, 2016*



Commissioner Morris joins Union City Mayor Vince Williams and Johns Creek Mayor Mike Bodker at a meeting to discuss transportation issues. *March 31, 2016*

Commissioner Morris provides a Fulton County update at a recent meeting of the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods. *January 14, 2016*



2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The County had several state legislative priorities for 2016. Following are the priorities that passed the Georgia General Assembly this year and are awaiting action from the Governor:

- SB 274 – Change Fulton’s budget year from a calendar year to a different fiscal year, sponsored by Senator Albers (56th)
- SB 369 – Fulton County Transportation Sales and Use Tax (TSPLOST), sponsored by Speaker Pro Tem Jones (47th)
- HB 514 – Provide an opportunity for the residents of unincorporated South Fulton to vote on cityhood, sponsored by Representative Bruce (61st)
- HB 885 – Change public health service delivery, sponsored by Speaker Pro Tem Jones (47th)

OTHER LEGISLATION AFFECTING FULTON COUNTY:

Following are some of the legislation of interest to the County that passed this session and await action from the Governor:

- SB 258 – Prohibition on increasing Property Values During Appeal
- SB 283 – Multibank Pooling of Public Funds
- SB 304 – Rape Kit Backlog Testing
- SB 367 – Criminal Justice Reform
- HB 216 – Workers Compensation for Firefighters
- HB 859 – Campus Carry
- HB 900 – Prescription Drug Abuse
- HB 1129 – McPherson Local Redevelopment Authority Act

LEE’S CORNER



We all know that arts, culture and creativity are crucial to enrich and nourish the human soul. We all know how important parks and recreation are to the physical and mental health and well-being of all people. But I believe that these are also fundamental to a community’s economic health and well-being. Businesses, along with the jobs they engender, want to be in communities with deep, broad and vibrant cultural and recreational opportunities. Such a rich and vibrant culture can improve a community’s competitive edge, create a sense of place, attract new visitors and new businesses, integrate community and business leaders’ visions, and contribute to a skilled workforce. That’s why I want us to stop thinking about funding the arts with “feel good” small grants that tend to be the first things cut when times get lean, and instead to start thinking about investments in arts and recreation as economic development.

We and many local governments use tax abatements and credits of many kinds to attract businesses and jobs, often on an annual basis aggregating many multiples of the investments in arts and recreation.

These are important programs and I believe Fulton County spends these economic development dollars wisely. But I have begun advocating that Fulton County also use some of its significant economic development investment dollars, to make sure Fulton County is that vibrant and rich cultural community in which businesses, and their jobs, want to be. I hope that we may someday see that an investment of \$1Million supporting arts organizations, their jobs, and the quality of life that results, may be just as productive in generating economic development and as wise an expenditure of economic development dollars, as an investment in tax abatements of \$1Million for a new construction project.

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